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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6658

BILL NUMBER: SB 227

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 22, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Standards Board.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Becker

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill renames the "Sexual Assault Victim Standards and Certification Board" as the "Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Standards and Certification Board", and moves control of the Board to the Criminal Justice Institute from the Department of Workforce Development. It moves the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Account and all balances and encumbrances to the Criminal Justice Institute from the Department of Workforce Development.

This bill removes the Executive Director of the Commission for Women from membership on the Commission, and adds representatives of the Office of Family and Social Services and State Department of Health as members. This bill makes conforming changes.

This bill also repeals the Sexual Assault Victim Standards Law.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill moves control of the Board from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI). This provision will decrease the workload in DWD and will increase the workload of CJI. This transfer of control should have no net effect on state expenditures as a result of an even transfer of workload.

The bill also affects dedicated funds by transferring the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Account from DWD to CJI. All balances and obligations of the original account are also transferred to the new account established in the General Fund. Funds in the account are to be distributed to a statewide nonprofit sexual assault coalition designated by the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In both current

law and in the legislation, the costs of administering the account are provided by funds in the account and will have no fiscal impact associated with its transfer.

The bill also adds a member to the Board. Currently, there are 10 members of the Board that serve in addition to the Executive Director of the Commission for Women, who serves as chairperson. The bill removes the Executive Director of the Commission for Women from the Board as well as serving as sole chairperson. The legislation provides for two new board members that will serve on the 12-member panel; one of whom replaces the Executive Director of the Commission for Women. These two board positions are to be filled by an employee of the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and an employee of the State Department of Health's Office of Women's Health. The legislation does not allow for Board members to receive a per diem salary, but allows reimbursement of travel expenses. Adding a member to the Board may increase state expenditures for mileage reimbursement for board members. This increase is likely to be small.

The legislation requires the Board to develop standards for certification as a sexual assault victim advocate, set fees that will cover the costs of the certification process, administer the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Account, and certify sexual assault victim advocates. Currently, the Board has been working toward developing certification standards but has yet to establish certification fees to cover the costs of the certification process.

Background Information: The Indiana Commission for Women reports that in FY 2007, \$20,000 of funding allotted to DWD was used for the operations of the Board. The Victim's Assistance Account is inaccessible to the Board and is currently designated for disbursement to a particular nonprofit sexual assault coalition for their operations. In FY 2007, the account had approximately \$50,000 that was provided to the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The account balance averages about \$35,000 to \$50,000 a year before being disbursed to a nonprofit sexual assault coalition.

Currently, there are no per diem payments made to Board members, but mileage reimbursement is provided. The Board met a total of 10 times during CY 2007, primarily for determining certification standards. The Indiana Commission for Women reports that the high number of meetings will likely not be duplicated in the upcoming years. There are 8 board meetings anticipated in the coming year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DWD, CJI, Indiana Commission for Women.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Sharon Langlotz, Indiana Commission for Women; Mike Barnhart, Department of Workforce Development.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.